

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

This application claims priority to currently pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. ~~60/499,477~~ 60/449,477, filed February 23, 2003, for "Overhead, Hidden Building Conduit Infrastructure". The contents of that provisional case are hereby incorporated herein by reference. The inventorship in this prior-filed case is the same as in the present case.

Please amend paragraph 0008 as follows:

[0008] In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the invention deals with this issue by proposing a building-construction approach whereby a full, normal floor-to-ceiling-height, lower-level (often ground-level) volume of space is topped by an uninterrupted, ~~and not later to be interrupted;~~ ceiling-structure continuum through which no utility structures extend. As was mentioned earlier herein, this uninterrupted spatial condition is one regarding which no utilities-conduit structures, such as water pipes, gas lines, electrical conduits, etc., will ever extend directly into the space through the ceiling plane in the context of providing utility services to building floors which are above the story-level which lies immediately below this space. This ceiling structure, rather, generally defines the underside of the base of an appropriately vertically shallow, overhead, laterally perimetered volume of space, wherein low-elevation utility structures are placed, contained and hidden, with no requirement remaining for any further, near-ceiling construction within the lower-level space. Preferably, the overall inside height of this overhead space, also referred to herein as a utilities-containment space, is such that it readily permits human entrance and maneuvering in it. It can be thought of as taking the form generally of a generous overhead crawl space -- say two to four feet high. It can be taller, of course, if desired.

Please amend paragraph [0021] as follows:

Thus, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, vertically interposed floors 12, 14, in the form of what is referred to herein as a sub-story with an overall height indicated generally at H_2 in Figs. 1 and 2 is a utilities-conduit containment space 20. Preferably, the internal volume of space 20 has an effective overall internal height, shown at H_3 in Fig. 2, which accommodates relatively easily human entrance and maneuvering within the space for reasons which will be explained shortly. ~~for~~ For example, high H_3 might be in the range of about three to four feet to allow space 20 to operate much like a crawl space (overhead, of course); or it might be made with a larger height if desired to allow for a person substantially to stand upright within space 20. This height H_3 is a matter of building-designer choice.